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LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your further report on the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa dated 20 December 1996 (S/1996/1063) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

In the light of the situation in the region, the members of the Security Council agree with your assessment that, in close consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and with the agreement of the Governments concerned, there is a case for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to perform three functions: the provision of good offices to those involved in the various conflicts in the region; the mobilization of international interest in, and support for, an integrated effort to address the region's problems; and coordination of the work of the United Nations system as a whole.

In this regard, the members of the Security Council agree with the proposal contained in paragraph 17 of your report.

The members of the Security Council reiterate also that the present situation in the area underlines the need to organize a conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. To this end, it would seem appropriate for a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to continue to promote the convening of such a conference and to encourage the adequate preparation of such a conference on an urgent basis.

The Security Council remains actively seized of the matter.

(Signed) Francesco Paolo FULCI
President of the Security Council

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